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State and Local Governments Employ 16.6 Million Full-Time Equivalent Employees in 2010

The 90,740 state and local governments across the country had 16.6 million full-time equivalent employees in 2010, 203,321 fewer than were employed in 2009, according to estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. The majority of these employees, 9.0 million, worked in education, followed by those working in hospitals (986,471) police protection (946,196) and corrections (731,692).

Part-time state and local government employees numbered 4.8 million in 2010, a decrease of 27,567 from 2009.

Local governments — which include counties, cities, townships, special districts and school districts — accounted for 12.2 million full-time equivalent employees in 2010, while state governments employed 4.4 million. Both figures showed decreases from 2009. The number of full-time equivalent employees is equal to the number of full-time employees added to the number of hours worked by part-time employees divided by the standard number of hours for a full-time employee.

These estimates come from the Census Bureau's *Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll*. The survey shows totals for state and local government full-time and part-time employment and details employment by government function at the national and state level.

Local Government Employment

Between 2009 and 2010, most states saw decreases in full-time equivalent employment. Rhode Island showed the biggest decline (7.7 percent), while North Dakota saw the largest increase (7.5 percent).

(more)

Editor's note: The tables can be accessed at <<http://www.census.gov/govs/apes>>.

Most states experienced another year of decline in part-time employment between 2009 and 2010, losing about 56,787 employees overall. Local governments in California saw a decrease of 47,620 part-time employees, while the largest increase in part-time employees was in Texas, which added 24,731 part-time employees.

State Government Employment

Most state governments saw small decreases in full-time or full-time equivalent employment between 2009 and 2010. Idaho, Connecticut and Rhode Island saw the largest declines, each losing about 5 percent of its workforce. Texas saw the largest percent increase (5.9 percent), adding about 17,800 to its workforce.

Most state governments saw increases in their part-time workforce, led by Wisconsin, which added 5,063 part-time employees, followed by California with an increase of 2,836 state employees. Florida saw the largest loss in part-time employment (7.5 percent), with a drop of about 3,555 employees. (Note: 2010 state and local part-time statistics for Pennsylvania are not comparable with previous statistics because of changes in reporting by the commonwealth.)

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The Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll was compiled for the month of March 2010. Total number of government units is as of the 2007 Census of Governments.

The data are subject to sampling and nonsampling errors. All comparisons made in the report have been tested and found to be statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level. Further information about the methodology and data limitations is available at http://www.census.gov/govs/apes/how_data_collected.html.